

for Thoroughbred Horse Racing in western Kentucky—the reopening of Ellis Park.

Since opening its gates for the first time in October of 1922, Ellis Park has been a significant part of Kentucky and Indiana's equine history. During those years the one and one eighth mile long track has provided horsemen and trainers a venue to showcase the sport they love.

Today, Ellis Park re-opens after suffering a devastating tornado on November 6th, 2005, that claimed the lives of 25 individuals in the surrounding community of Evansville, Indiana, and that delivered a direct hit to the Ellis Park race track damaging several buildings and killing some of the Thoroughbred Horses stabled at the track.

Today is one of triumph over tragedy as those who suffered so much move forward and continue to rebuild their community.

Mr. Speaker, the re-opening of historic Ellis Park under the new ownership of Kentucky Businessman Ron Geary promises a bright future for Thoroughbred Racing in western Kentucky and the tri-state region. Mr. Geary has committed to continue and build upon an 85 year history that has made Ellis Park a popular setting for friends and family to come together and enjoy the atmosphere created by the sight and sound of thoroughbreds thundering towards the finish line.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDY HEVERLY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Sandy Heverly for her dedication to victims of DUI accidents and their families.

Sandy became impassioned with the anti-DUI movement after she, her husband, children and mother were all injured as a result of an accident caused by a drunk driver. Following this incident, Sandy decided to try to help DUI victims and create awareness about the severity of DUI crimes. Since then, Sandy has been a driving force in the anti-DUI movement in Nevada, and has helped enhance awareness nationwide.

Through her positions as Executive Director and Co-Founder of STOP DUI, Executive Director of Nevada Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and Nevada Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) State Coordinator, Sandy has spread the message about drunk driving throughout Nevada and the Nation. She has increased awareness by making over 1,000 anti-DUI presentations to students, civic organizations, and the gaming and liquor industries, and through various media movements, including the eight-year "Red Ribbon Campaign." With STOP DUI, Sandy established a Victim's Assistance Program to provide immediate financial assistance to DUI victims and their families, the only program of its kind in the Nation. She has also helped the bipartisan Congressional Stop DUI Caucus shed new light on the epidemic of drunk driving in America.

On July 19, 2006, Sandy's efforts to end drunk driving will be recognized as she is sworn in to the President's Advisory Commission for Drug-Free Communities. Her extensive knowledge and experience in bringing awareness to the anti-DUI cause will undoubtedly make Sandy an asset to the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sandy Heverly for her dedication and advocacy against drunk driving. As the co-chair of the Congressional Stop DUI Caucus, and father to a daughter injured by a drunk driver, ridding our nation's roads of these dangerous drivers is a cause that is very important to me. I congratulate Sandy for her appointment to the President's Advisory Commission for Drug-Free Communities, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KATHIE SIMPKINS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Kathie Simpkins from East Prairie, Missouri, who passed away on July 16, 2006. Kathie was a standout individual, a dedicated public servant, and a true friend. As the City Administrator for East Prairie, Kathie brought innovative ideas and unbridled enthusiasm to her job.

Kathie's sense of community is strong and deep-rooted, which has made her a successful individual in East Prairie. She was even recognized as East Prairie Woman of the Year in 2005. Kathie demonstrated the kind of pragmatic, problem-solving ability that is rare anywhere in the Nation and a real blessing to us in Southern Missouri. As City Administrator, Kathie was responsible for securing and administering more than \$12 million in state and federal grants.

Spending her life living in her hometown, Kathie was Southern Missouri through-and-through. She was a 1973 graduate of East Prairie High School and a 1978 graduate of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, where she majored in business administration and marketing management. Kathie was a fixture at professional and other local organizations' meetings. She was always in search of another way to serve her neighbor.

Kathie Simpkins' family and friends have lost a dear part of their life, but the entire region has lost a tremendous advocate for Southern Missouri. It will take the hard work of many individuals to fill the void Kathie has left in our community. We are fortunate to have known Kathie and been inspired by her. She leaves a legacy of good management and great investment in the people of East Prairie.

I feel very fortunate to have known Kathie, and I want to ensure that she is remembered for her wealth of good works. She is a true model of civic pride and community service. Kathie Simpkins has made an immeasurable contribution to our district, our state, and our Nation. Thank you, Kathie, and God bless you.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to welcome the entire Seton Hall community here to Capitol Hill for their annual 'Hall on the Hill' Reception. Let me thank Monsignor Sheeran for his leadership at Seton Hall, as well as his profound words given at invocation on the House floor this morning. Let me also congratulate my good friend Phil Thigpen for the honor he is receiving this evening. Phil has always been active in the community and clearly he has done his alma mater proud.

As Seton Hall University celebrates 150 years of service to our educational community, it is appropriate to take a moment to acknowledge what a remarkable achievement it is. Founded in 1856, Seton Hall University predates even the Civil War.

Throughout the years, Seton Hall University has educated our Nation's youth, providing them with the tools necessary to succeed in the ever-changing world. One of Seton Hall's greatest aspects is its versatility. With programs in business, law, medicine, and the humanities, students are free to explore all areas of academia. The John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations is world-renowned for its fantastic professors and unique alliance with the United Nations Association of the United States of America. Ranked in the top 125 national universities by US News and World Report, Seton Hall is truly a premier academic institution.

But, it is not just academics which makes Seton Hall University such a great institution. Being the largest Catholic University in the state of New Jersey, Seton Hall has a special focus on its ethical mission, teaching students not just how to be great scholars but great people. Part of this ethical mission includes tolerance and openness. In fact, few schools are so diverse and welcome students of so many different backgrounds. Its location in South Orange, New Jersey also allows the university to benefit from the diversity of its surroundings and proximity to New York City.

A Seton Hall University experience does not end at the doors of the classroom. Many Pirates have gone on to achieve great feats at both the collegiate and professional athletics level, including baseball player Craig Biggio and ESPN sportscaster, Dick Vitale. Students also have the opportunity to take part in over one hundred different extracurricular organizations to expand their interests and talents.

Educating our Nation's youth is a service to more than just the students who earn degrees. Universities such as Seton Hall provide a service to our entire community by training future generations of our Nation's leaders. It is an honor to celebrate this 150th anniversary of Seton Hall University and I hope that it will continue to educate our students for at least another 150 years.